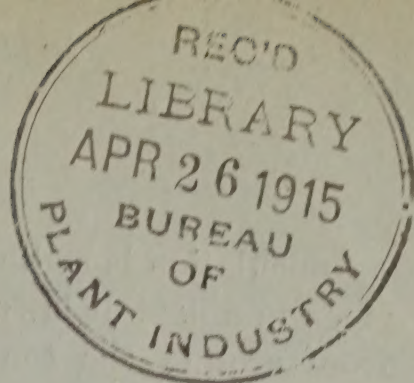


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F. C. I.—16.

United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Forage-Crop Investigations,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

WHITE CLOVER (*Trifolium repens*).

White clover is a native of Europe, but was early introduced into this country, where it has spread until now it occurs naturally in probably every State in the Union. It is a low-growing perennial plant, especially adapted for permanent pastures or for lawn purposes. It is usually seeded in mixtures with other clovers and grasses. It is preeminently a pasture crop and in this country seldom, if ever, makes enough growth to be cut for hay. It is of considerable value as a soil improver, but is seldom seeded with this as the main object. It spreads rapidly by the rooting of its creeping stems, and individual plants have been known to spread until they formed a mat 10 feet in diameter. This characteristic makes it valuable for seeding on embankments and cuts, to reduce soil washing and to provide a green cover for the otherwise bare soil. In mixtures, with bluegrass especially, it constitutes the principal pasturage of the Eastern States.

White clover is frequently used with success on the "fair greens" of golf links in mixtures with the true grasses. Even on the "putting greens" it may be used with fair success, especially under conditions where the ordinary turf grasses can not be used with success. A pure stand requires very thick seeding, but it gives quick results and presents a uniform texture and gives a true putting surface.

SEEDING.

The seed of white clover is much smaller than that of red clover and ordinarily weighs about 63 pounds to the bushel. White clover is hardy throughout the United States and accommodates itself to a considerable variation as regards time of sowing. For this reason it can be sown at the proper time to sow the other constituents with which it is to be used either for pasturage or lawn purposes. From 1 to 4 pounds per acre is a sufficient quantity of white clover to seed in ordinary grass mixtures that are to be utilized for pasturage. About 15 pounds per acre should be included in a mixture for lawn grass. The seed is small and may be covered lightly at the same depth and at the same time that the grass seeds are covered.

Inoculation is ordinarily unnecessary, but the first time the seed is sown in a field or lawn it is well to mix with it an equal weight of soil from around the roots of healthy white-clover plants. The sun's rays are injurious to the inoculating germs, and therefore the seed should be sown and covered without the sun having shone upon it. When once established in a permanent pasture, enough seed will ordinarily be produced to provide for reseeding any areas upon which the white clover may have run out. When the pasture contains a large proportion of white clover which has matured its seed, any horses pasturing thereon will be likely to have slobbers. Its wide adaptability to soil and climate makes white clover one of the most valuable of pasture and lawn plants available in this country. The seed is usually quite expensive and any areas observed to be making seed abundantly should, if possible, be harvested for seed. A canvas receptacle placed behind the cutter bar of the mower will catch the heads as they are clipped off.

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